

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2023 without my signature.

While I recognize that there are many civic and other educational opportunities outside of the classroom, I am concerned that this bill would excuse student absences without the approval of the school principal. I believe local school districts should continue to be allowed the discretion to establish their own policies and criteria for determining when a student's absence to participate in such activities is appropriate before the absence is considered a legitimate excused absence.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger